



Justice Information Network

Current operating and funding environment, institutionalizing JIN, emerging issues

Ongoing threats to national security have thrust the need for integrated justice into the spotlight. Many of the deficiencies inherent in our current practices and approach to security and integrated justice are exposed and under scrutiny. This heightened focus on national security is under acute pressure from the expectations of citizens, who often overestimate the current capabilities of the justice community.

The reality is that system integration does not exist today. Information sharing remains the singular right of the information owner and its exchange often relies on that individual's perspective. Compounding this barrier, the criminal justice practitioner who needs the information may not know whether or where it exists. When it could be argued that the way our justice systems work today paralyzes information sharing, we have a serious problem from the perspective of national security and public safety.

Moreover, recent advances in technology such as Justice XML, Web services and the development of innovative middleware solutions, have rendered much of the JIN planning efforts obsolete. This works to the state's advantage: justice integration goals can be achieved faster and at lower cost than previously thought possible. Recent experience with the JIN proof-of-concept projects confirms that the benefits promised by these new technologies are real and practicable.

Technology is not the silver bullet. However, it is the best medium we have to share the critical information that can prevent harm, apprehend and prosecute suspects and stop people who are national security threats from carrying out their destructive missions.

Within the justice community, many state and local practitioners are looking to the JIN to provide leadership and assistance. Failure to do so will perpetuate the lack of integration and the continued pursuit of



The National Crime Victimization Survey reports that U.S. residents, age 12 or older, were the victims of more than 20 million crimes in 2002. Crimes of violence take up more than 20 percent of that number. In our country, victims of violent crime in urban areas number more than 50 per thousand residents. In fact, for every 1,000 individuals over the age of 12, there occurs at least one rape or sexual assault, one assault with injury and two robberies.



Many of these crimes against the innocent could have been prevented by the front line exchange of timely and accurate information – background checks, real-time identification and high quality data on felony warrants from other jurisdictions. Communication and rapid access to critical information can mean the difference between life and death.



independent projects, which could impair statewide integration and make this important program difficult to implement and fund. Compounding the situation are widely varying budget and operating micro-environments throughout Washington. These discrepancies impact funding and reflect differing commitments to JIN. Some local organizations are far ahead of the state in their planning for justice integration and



would prefer JIN to create an environment that promotes successful integration but remains in a supporting role. Others require thorough, systematic assistance to make any progress.

The JIN Program Office must create an operating environment that permits the vanguard to lead, while assuring appropriate levels of support and service to those members of the justice community who require assistance. This assistance will range from project templates and general consulting support to the full-scale development of requisite technology and services. The infrastructure that will make this possible is one of the core components needed to support the Request for Proposals (see Appendix D) issued recently by the JIN Program Office.

Within this operating and funding environment, the current structure of the JIN Program Office is not financially sustainable – the Office depends on grant awards and agency contributions. Grants provide ample funds for development but do not provide the maintenance budget required for connectivity and ongoing support. Agency contributions are subject to the disparities of mission mandates and available allocations.

Institutionalizing JIN

1984. The Criminal Justice Information Act (CJIA) was enacted in 1984, in part to provide "timely and accurate criminal histories."³ The CJIA also established an executive committee appointed by the heads of the Department of Corrections (DOC), the Office of Financial Management (OFM) and the Washington State Patrol (WSP). The committee was tasked to provide recommendations on how this goal could be achieved.

1992. In 1992, to "provide direction to the CJIA Executive Committee,"⁴ the statutory members of the CJIA Executive Committee facilitated the creation of a Justice Information Committee (JIC) under the Information Services Board (ISB). The JIC was composed of five state agency directors – Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), Department of Information Services (DIS), DOC, OFM and WSP – and five local representatives (district and superior court judges, prosecutors, clerks and law enforcement).

2002-2003. In 2002 the CJIA and Justice Information committees were consolidated in preparation for a proposed law establishing a single governance body with a broader mandate for directing justice integration statewide. Pursuant to RCW §10.98.210, the reconstituted Executive Committee became the Integrated Justice Information Board (the Board) in July 2003.

Around the same time, five agencies (AOC, DIS, DOC, DOL, WSP) agreed to fund the hiring of a program director and the creation of a Program Office at DIS to support the new governance structure.

Statutory References

On May 7, 2003, Governor Locke signed the law creating the governance structure and objectives for the JIN. The 2005-07 JIN Strategic Plan responds to this mandate (see Appendix B). The requirements for the development and maintenance of a network for sharing information in the justice community have been codified at RCW §10.98.160 et. seq.

A more detailed history of this effort is attached at Appendix A.

³ RCW §10.98.010. For a detailed list of integration efforts, see Appendix E

⁴ Office of Financial Management, *Proposal to the Information Services Board*, January 1992, p. 1



Integrated Justice Information Board

RCW §10.98.210 provides that the Integrated Justice Information Board, which is responsible for JIN governance, has the membership detailed below (as of August 2004).

Appointment	Current Member
A representative appointed by the governor	Everett Billingslea
The director of the Office of Financial Management	Marty Brown
A prosecutor appointed by the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys	Steve Clem
A police chief appointed by the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police chiefs	Terry Davenport
The attorney general	Christine Gregoire
Two representatives appointed by the Judicial Information System Committee	Cathy Grindle Judge Thomas Wynne
A county legislative authority member appointed by the Washington State Association of Counties	Kathy Lambert
A sheriff appointed by the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs	Denise Turner
The secretary of the Department of Corrections	Joseph Lehman
The director of the Department of Information Services	Mike McVicker
The administrator for the Courts	Janet McLane
A county clerk appointed by the Washington Association of County Clerks	Teri Nielsen
The chief of the Washington State Patrol	Lowell M. Porter
The assistant secretary of the Department of Social and Health Services responsible for juvenile rehabilitation programs	Cheryl Stephani
The director of the Department of Licensing	Fred Stephens
A representative appointed by the Washington Association of City and County Information Systems	George Helton
A representative appointed by the Association of Washington Cities	Bonnie Woodrow



The Board represents the consolidation of the JIC and the CJIA Executive Committees, which had been active since 1984 and 1992 respectively, but which had served largely as information-sharing forums rather than true governance structures. A timeline for state integration efforts is included at Appendix C.

The formation of a governance structure for integration must be the foundation of any plan for integration. As the *2002 Implementation Recommendations* recognize, the Board is the important first step for the state to establish a body to assume responsibility for justice integration

efforts statewide. The Program Office provides staff support to the Board.

Pursuant to RCW §10.98.230, the Board has the power to:

- coordinate and facilitate the sharing and integrated delivery of complete, accurate and timely justice information;
- increase the use of automated data transfer in the justice community;
- establish and implement uniform data standards and protocols; and
- provide aggregated information to the justice community from different sources.

No one agency can do it alone. Well-meaning agency officials are under tremendous pressure to update their systems. Alone, they may only be able to modernize the stovepipes, not replace them.

The 9/11 Commission, Final Report of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States, July 2004.

Emerging issues

Two issues have emerged, which will require the attention and resources of the Board during the 2005-07 biennium:

- the development of the network and security infrastructure for information sharing; and
- the need to prioritize and build services for key exchanges or data sets.

Once benchmarks are in place, the Board must measure the extent to which automation efforts reduce redundant data entry and speed the flow of information into the hands of those who need it.

The Board must also be aware of and support the many information-sharing efforts underway at the state and local level. The creation of a JIN Knowledge Center will help to exchange information and provide valuable resources to improve efficiency and ensure integration. As a central repository for the information, resources and expertise of the state's justice practitioners, the JIN Knowledge Center will complement the JIN Portfolio – an inventory of integration projects in Washington – and provide access to information about integration projects within the context of statewide efforts.